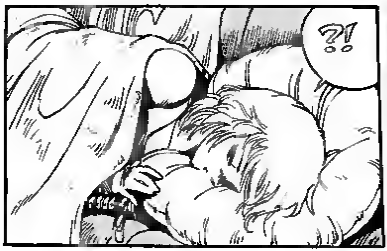
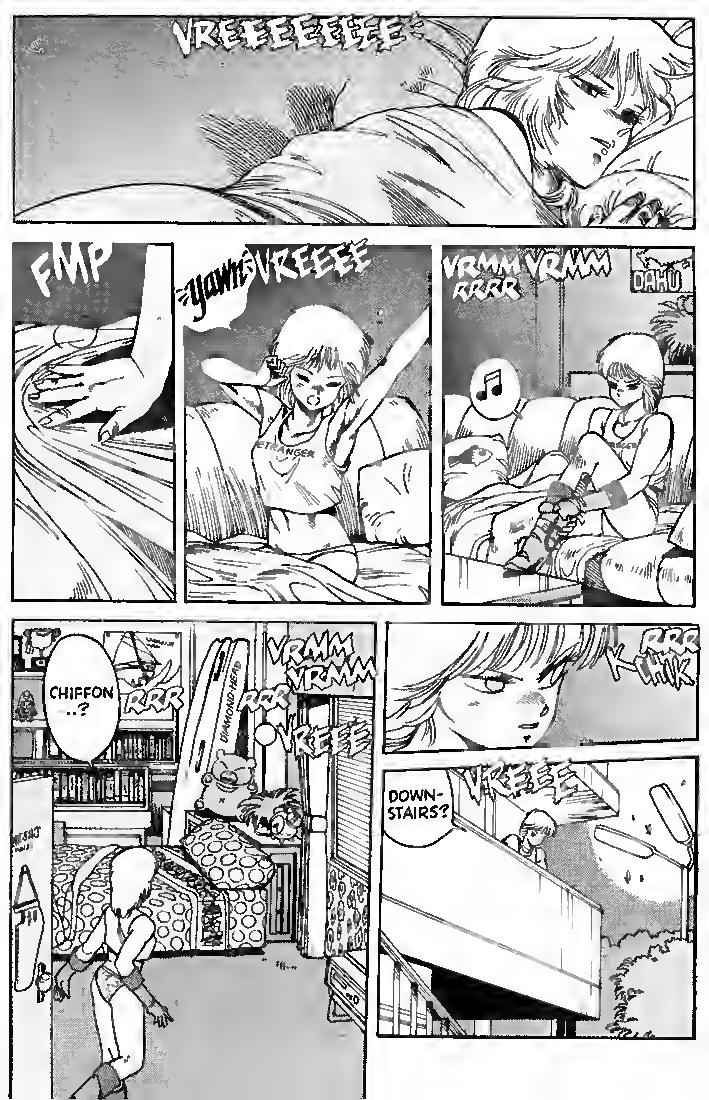
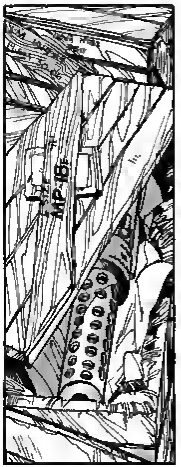
6. THE BATTLE OF TITAN



KCHIK
CHAK
KCHIK
....
CHIK
FMP
KTUNK SSHH
KATACHIK KTK CHAK
TSHP
SLAM

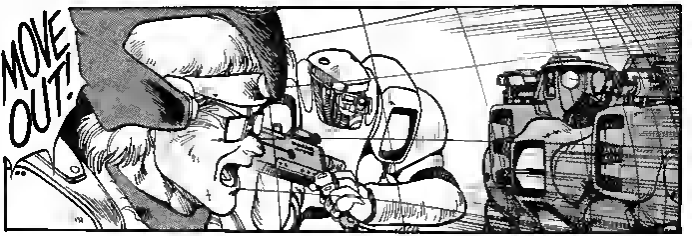

VREEEEEEEE
FMP
=yawn=VREEEE
STRANGER
VRMM VRMM RRRR
DAHU
CHIFFON ..?
RRR
VRMM VRMM
DIAMOND HEAD
RRR
VREEE
RRR
K-CHIK
DOWN-STAIRS?
VREEE

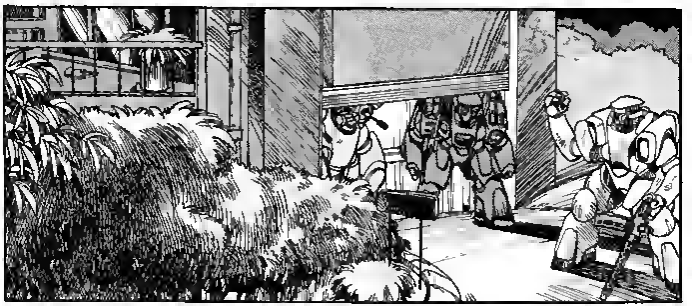
KHAK
VRZZZT
VRZZZ


MP-18

KLIK
SHRANG

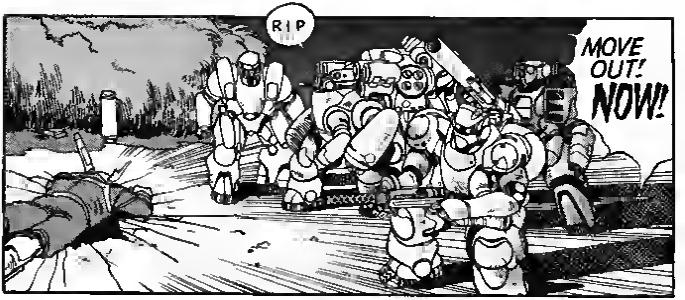
VENT SYSTEMS OKAY?

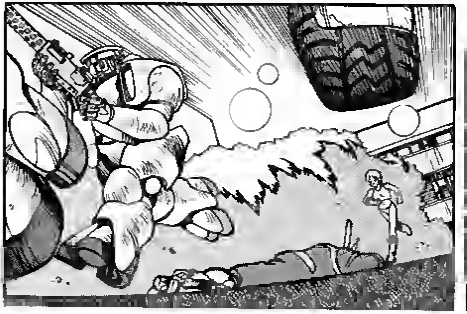

MOVE OUT!



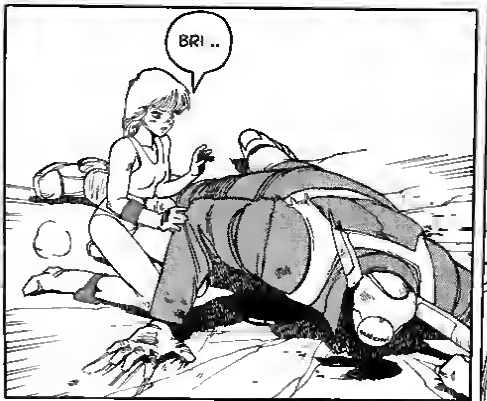
TAP TAP
TAP
TAP
Hm?!
AAA!
DAMN IT!
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?!
FIRE!
ETRANGE

BRTTT
SPAK
SPAK
KATAKATAKA
WHOO

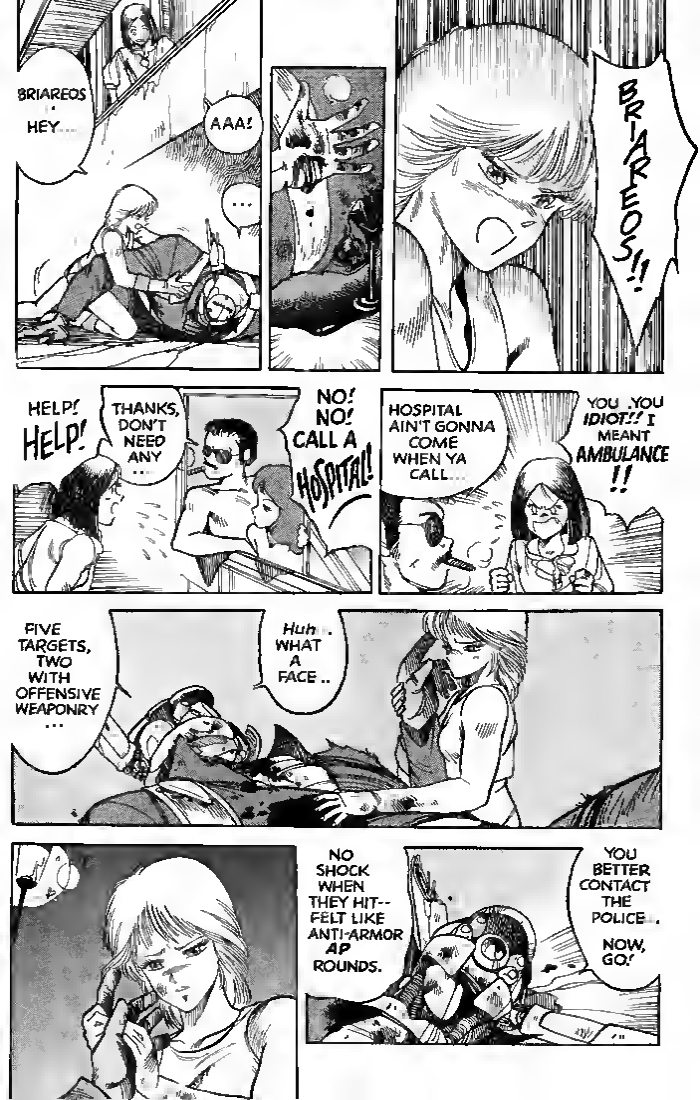

R I P
MOVE OUT! NOW!



ungg..


BRI ..

WHA'S ALL TH' RACKET... HEY.. GEE WHIZ ...


BRIAREOS · HEY...
AAA!
...
BRIAREOS!!
HELP! HELP!
THANKS, DON'T NEED ANY ...
NO! NO! CALL A HOSPITAL!
HOSPITAL AIN'T GONNA COME WHEN YA CALL...
YOU ..YOU IDIOT!! I MEANT AMBULANCE !!
FIVE TARGETS, TWO WITH OFFENSIVE WEAPONRY ...
Huh . WHAT A FACE ..
NO SHOCK WHEN THEY HIT-- FELT LIKE ANTI-ARMOR AP ROUNDS.
YOU BETTER CONTACT THE POLICE . NOW, GO!

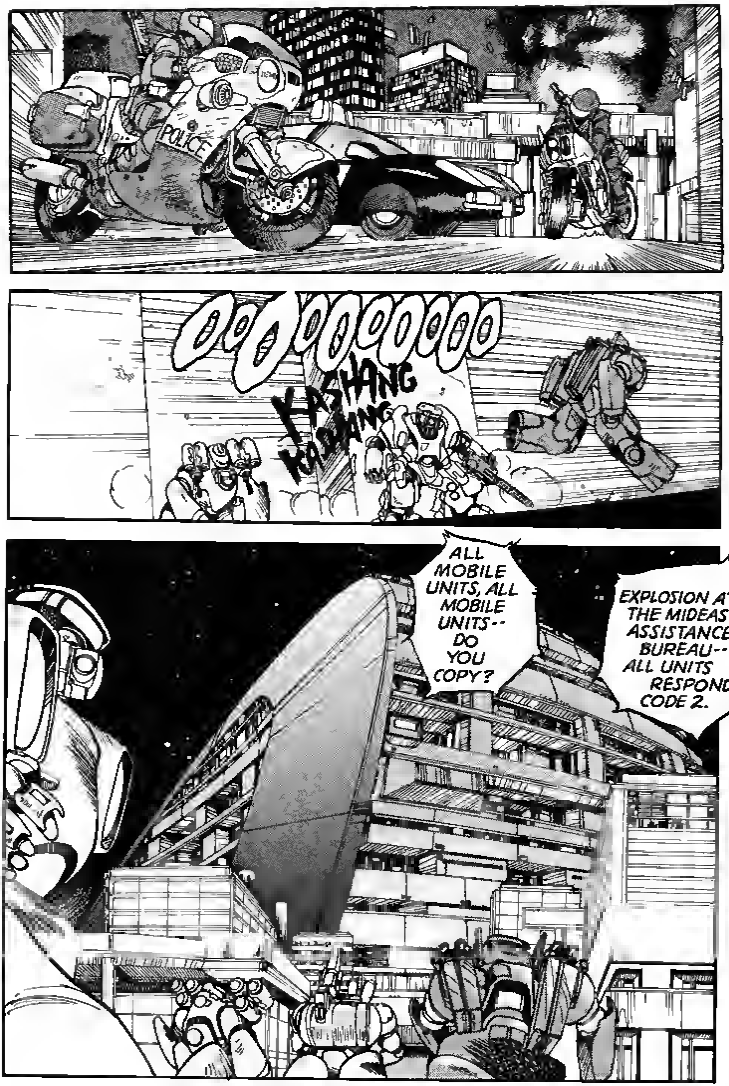
YOU...YOU IDIOT! LOOK AT ALL THIS BLOOD--MUST BE AN ARTERY! STOP TALKING AND SHUT YOURSELF DOWN!
I CAN DO EMERGENCY REPAIRS ON YOUR BIO PACK!
DEUNAN!!
ETRANGER
THEY'RE KOFF KOFF THEY'RE GETTING AWAY!
BRI... BRIAREOS!
THEY'RE TOO TOUGH FOR THESE INEXPERIENCED COPS TO HANDLE ...!
I'M ALL... ALL RIGHT! I'LL SHUT DOWN AS SOON AS YOU LEAVE!
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?! GO!!
BRIAREOS

OOOOOOOOOO
E.T.RANGER
DEUNAN?!
POLICE
Hurm... IT ENTERED HERE, PIERCED THE HEAT TRANSFER UNIT MEMBRANE AND LODGED IN HIS BIOSYSTEM.
WELL, WELL... THIS SHOULD BE AN EXCITING OPERATION, eheh, heh, heh...
WHAT?! ARE YOU KIDDING?!
HEY! HURRY UP WITH THAT AX54! WE'LL CRACK HIS CASE ENROUTE!

DEU... KOFF.. DEUNAN..
SHE NEEDS... AN EIGHT-MAN SUPPORT TEAM... CONTACT E.S.W.A.T. ...
SHADDAP, YOU!
-SMP!
H-HEY! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
IF I HEAR ANOTHER PEEP FROM YOU OR THE PATIENT I'LL STUFF YOUR MOUTH WITH SALT AND STITCH IT SHUT!
Oh, ♫ DOCTOR ...? SHOULD WE USE AN ANTI-COAGULANT?
MATTHEW
WHUPWHUPWHUP
NOW WHAT?! WHAZZAT?
D.C. MATTHEW
WHUPWHUPWHUP
OOOOOOOOOO
.....

VREEEE
FSSHH
SKREE
KA-
CHK
KASHANG
KASHANG
KASHANG
HIGUGES

POL
THEY'RE FIVE MINUTES EARLY?!
OKAY, DO IT.
WHOOM

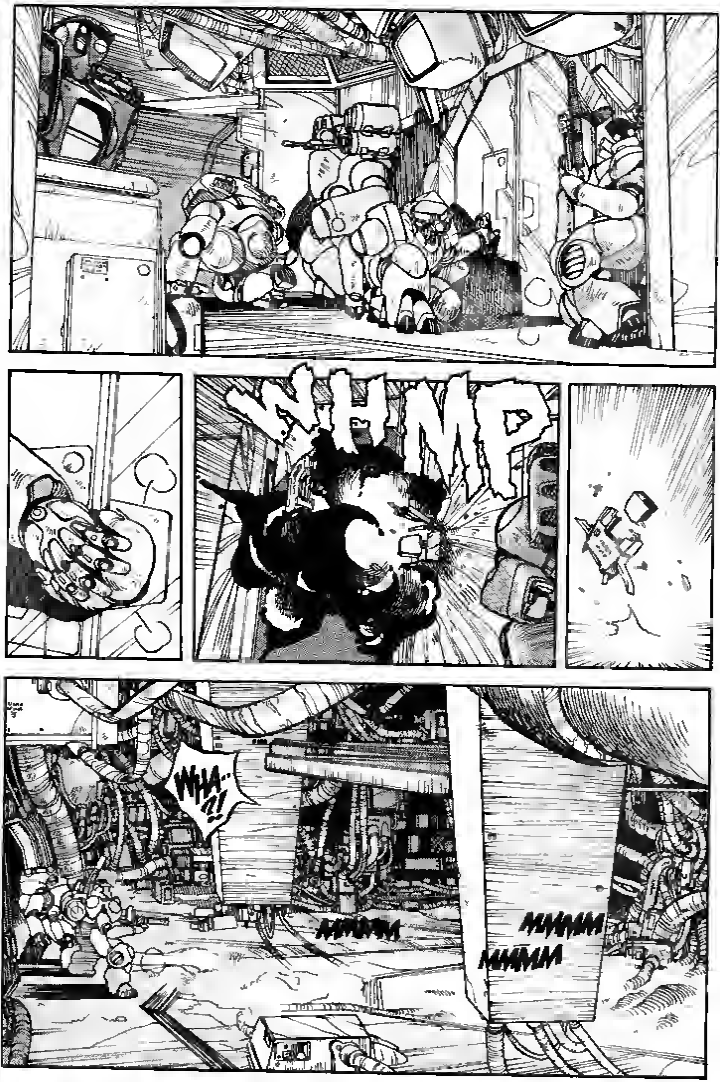

POLICE
KRSHANG
KRSHANG
ALL MOBILE UNITS, ALL MOBILE UNITS-- DO YOU COPY?
EXPLOSION AT THE MIDEAST ASSISTANCE BUREAU-- ALL UNITS RESPOND, CODE 2.

SK--
--KASH
WHERE IS GAIA?!
WHERE ARE YOUR MANNERS?
YOU SHOULD KNOCK BEFORE ENTERING ...
WE'RE LOOKING FOR THAT SUPERCOMPUTER, THE ONE THE COUNCIL THEORISTS USE!
WHERE IS IT?! ANSWER ME!!

BR
IS THAT ALL YOU WANT? YOU COULD HAVE ASKED THE RECEPTIONIST.
WHY YOU NEED ME, I DON'T --
THERE'S A MAP IN THE LEFT-HAND DRAWER OF MY DESK. CHECK IT YOURSELF-- WON'T TAKE A MINUTE
HEY! DON'T TOUCH THOSE GREY SHEETS! I JUST FINISHED PRINTING THEM OUT!
GOT IT!
SO SORRY TO INTRUDE ...!
BOK

WHAT THE HELL ARE THEY UP TO ..?
BEEP
IS THAT YOU, SUE-ALICE? SORRY TO WAKE YOU ISOLATE GAIA AND BLOCKS 28 THROUGH 32. DEPLOY MY STRIKE UNIT TO SOUTHGATE 4 IN BLOCK 29
YES. RIGHT AWAY. MAKE IT FAST.
AND CALL ATHENA...
YES, I KNOW-- GET HER UP. THANKS.
DAMN...
...I SHOULD'VE HAD HER SEND UP A COUPLE OF PILLOWS.
KCHAK

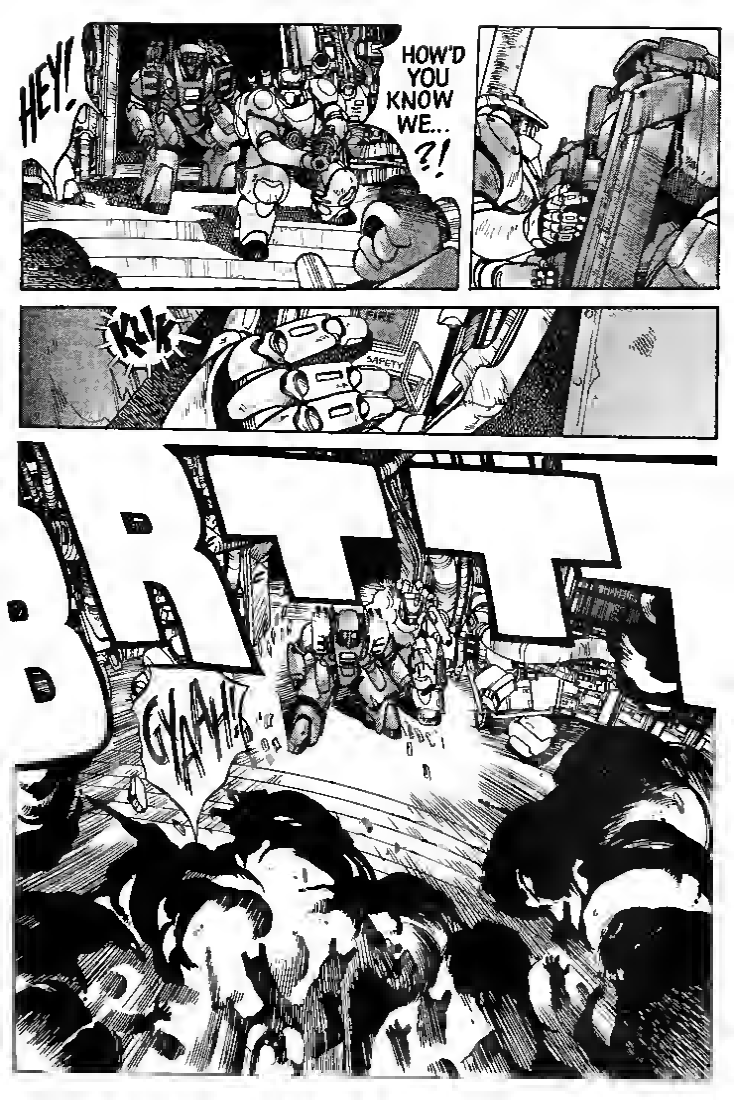
WOOSH!


WHMP
WHA...?!
MMMM
MMMM
MMMM

MMMM
MMMM
MMMM
IS... IS THIS THE CPU?!
IT'S COMPLETELY UNPROTECTED! I CAN'T TELL THE MAIN UNIT FROM THE SUBSYSTEMS!
WHA-?!
BRRTT
SPAK SPAK SPAK

?!
WHA... WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?!
CALM DOWN! IT'S JUST LIGHT FROM THE OPTICAL CIRCUITRY!
IT'S NOT PART OF THE ALARM!
LET'S DO IT!
KSHANG KSHANG
KCHAK

CHIK
CHAK
KCHAK
!
PO--
--POLICE
?!
SHUT DOWN YOUR ARMOR AND COME OUT!
COOPERATE AND YOU'LL GET A FAIR BREAK. OTHERWISE ...
POLICE

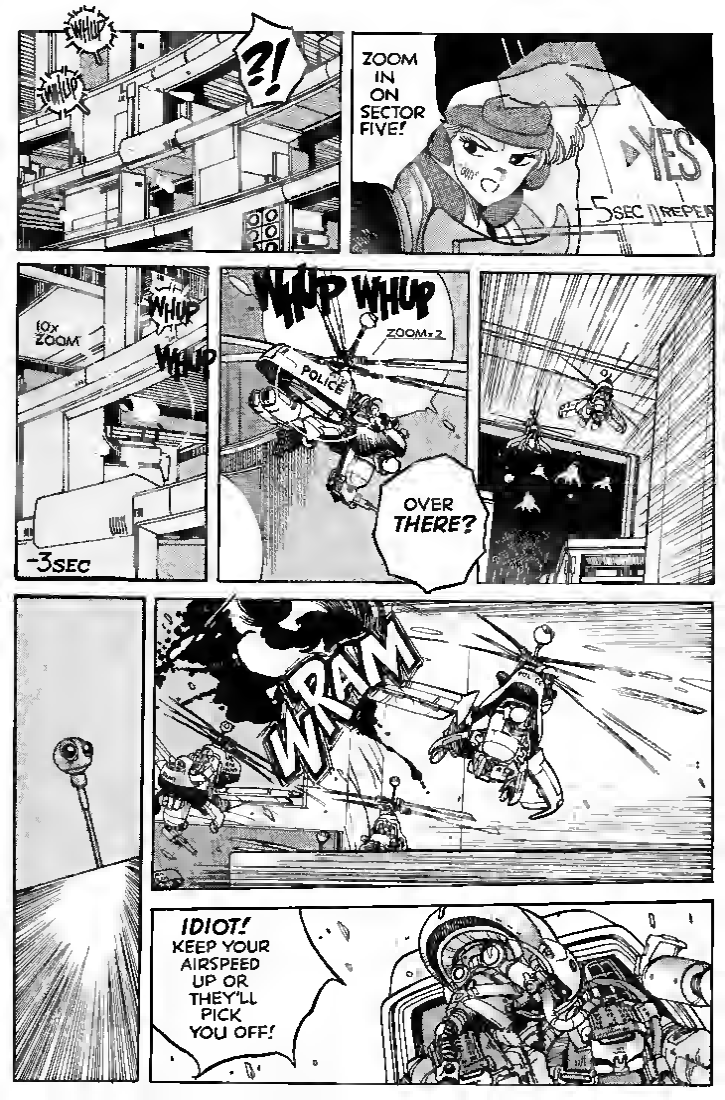

HEY!
HOW'D YOU KNOW WE...?!
K!K
SAFETY
BRT
GYAHH

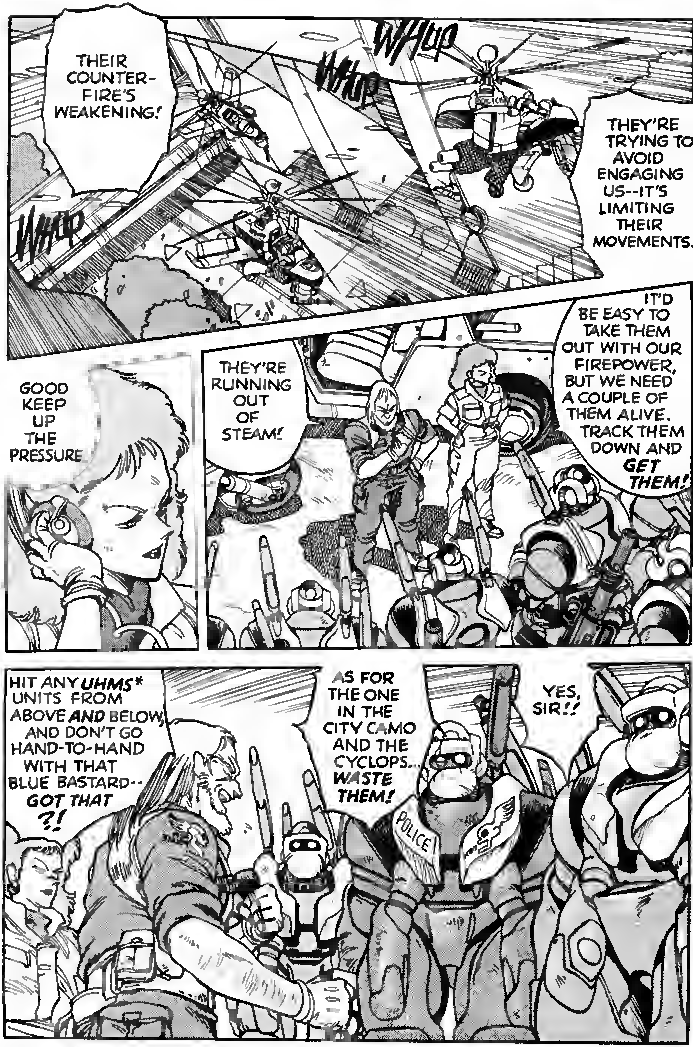
THE SPEC BANK!
POLICE
FORGET IT! JUST CLOSE THE GATES! DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY!
BRTT
LOOKS GREAT!
IDIOT!
BKSHRTTT
WE STILL HAVE THE CORE CHIPS AND THE ARCHITECT! DON'T WORRY ABOUT DAMAGE-- GET THEM!!
KSHOOM

WHA--?!
SHTAKK
WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP
THE AIR POLICE, TOO?!
KCHIK
BRAKKA

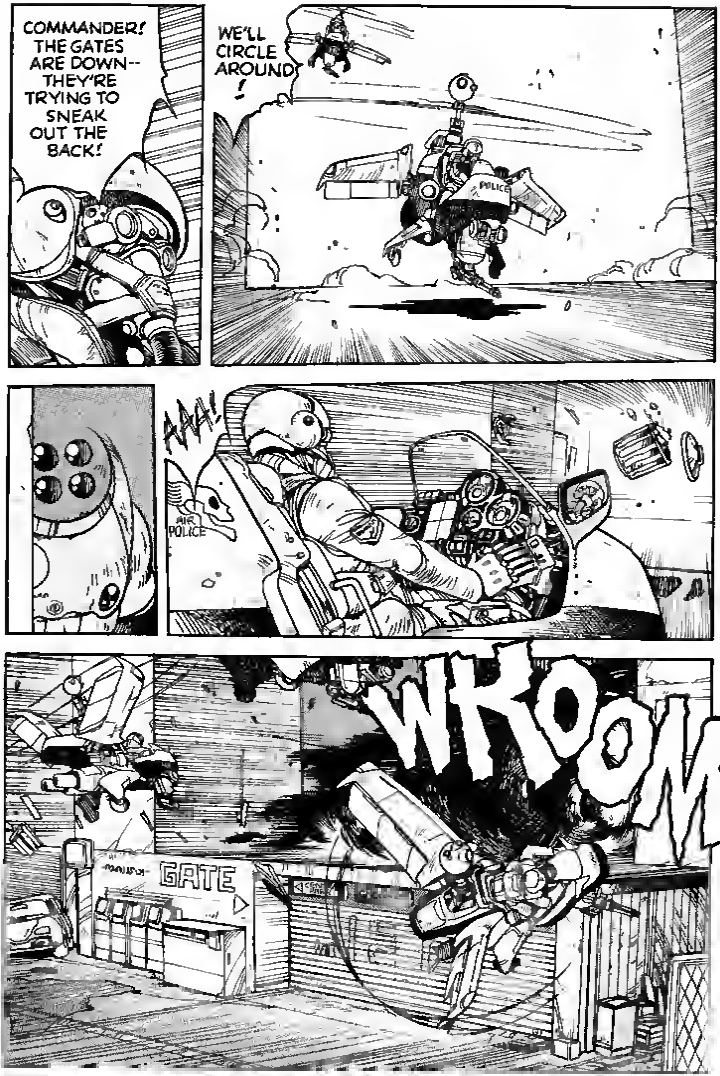
THAT'S WHAT HE GETS FOR USING AN AMERICAN SUSPENSION!
BRRTTT
SPREAD OUT!!
THE GUY IN THE CAMOUFLAGED LANDMATE CAN HIT YOU OUT TO 600 YARDS--SO WATCH IT, YOU GUYS!
WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP
AND YOUR 20mm CANNONS WON'T WORK ON THE BLUE SUIT!
KCHIK
WHERE'S ATHENA?!
OPTOLEX
SPECIAL COMBAT A.L.S.
I WANT TO GET THOSE GUYS BEFORE ATHENA DOES! MOVE OUT!
Heh, heh, heh...
GOT HERE AHEAD OF ME, DID SHE..?

GET OUT OF THE WAY!
YAHH!!
STILL WARM. THESE GUYS AREN'T TRAINED.
THEY JUST WENT *STRAIGHT* IN...?
AND *THAT'S* THEIR TARGET.

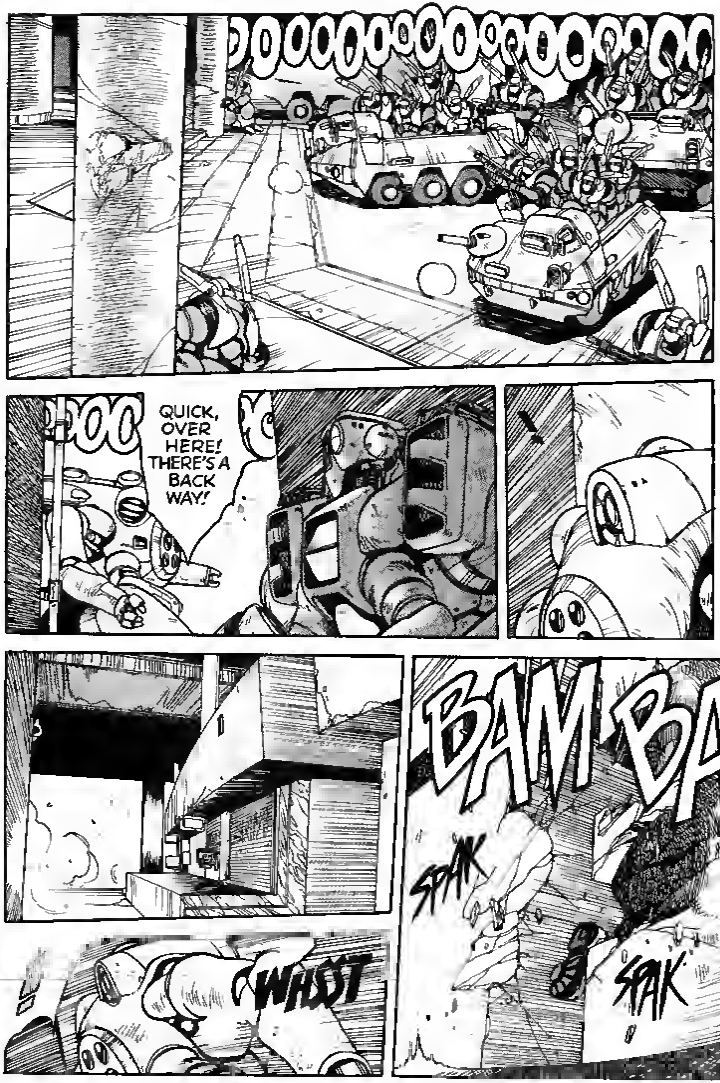

WHUP
WHUP
?!
ZOOM IN ON SECTOR FIVE!
YES
5SEC
10x ZOOM
WHUP
WHUP
-3SEC
WHUP WHUP
ZOOM×2
POLICE
OVER THERE?
WRAM
IDIOT! KEEP YOUR AIRSPEED UP OR THEY'LL PICK YOU OFF!

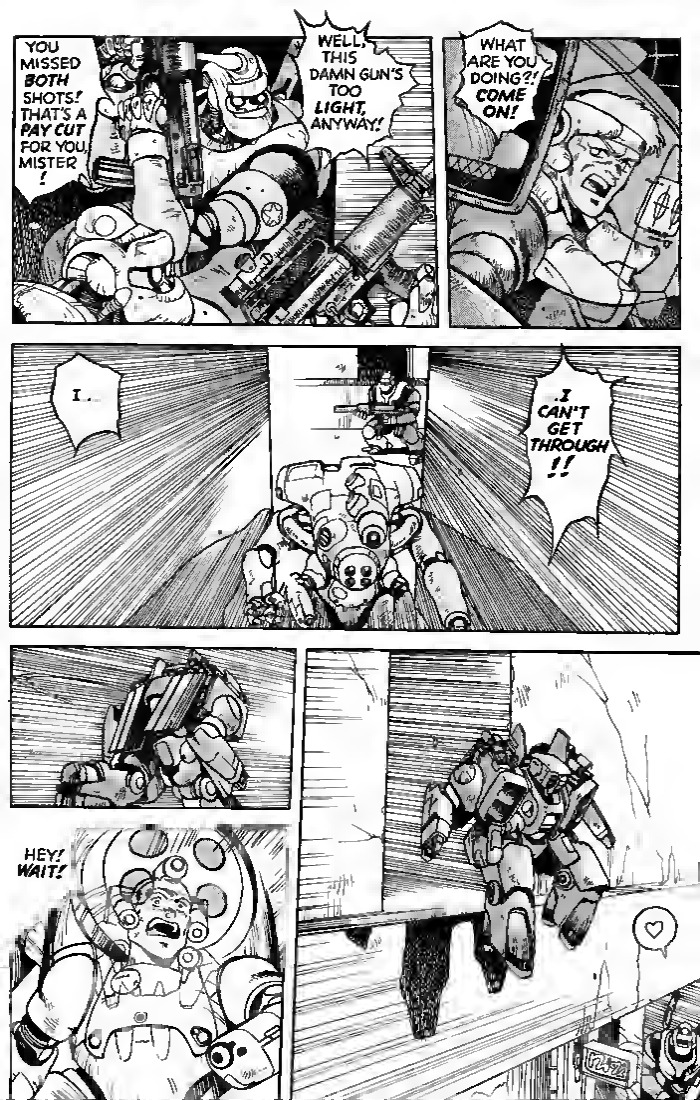

THEIR COUNTER-FIRE'S WEAKENING!
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
THEY'RE TRYING TO AVOID ENGAGING US--IT'S LIMITING THEIR MOVEMENTS.
GOOD KEEP UP THE PRESSURE
THEY'RE RUNNING OUT OF STEAM!
IT'D BE EASY TO TAKE THEM OUT WITH OUR FIREPOWER, BUT WE NEED A COUPLE OF THEM ALIVE. TRACK THEM DOWN AND GET THEM!
HIT ANY UHMS* UNITS FROM ABOVE AND BELOW, AND DON'T GO HAND-TO-HAND WITH THAT BLUE BASTARD--GOT THAT ?!
AS FOR THE ONE IN THE CITY CAMO AND THE CYCLOPS... WASTE THEM!
YES, SIR!!
POLICE

*UHMS: UNDER-HEAD MOUNT SENSORS--A LANDMATE WITH ITS SENSOR PACK MOUNTED UNDER THE HEAD.


COMMANDER! THE GATES ARE DOWN-- THEY'RE TRYING TO SNEAK OUT THE BACK!
WE'LL CIRCLE AROUND!
POLICE
AAAA!
AIR POLICE
WHOOM
GATE

NOW WHAT?
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
POLICE
POLICE
IF WE CLOSE ON THEM, WE'RE SITTING DUCKS. IF WE COME IN THROUGH THE WEEDS, YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENS. THERE'S NO WAY TO GET THE JUMP ON THEM... LEAVE IT TO THE GRUNTS! LET'S REPORT IN.
WHUPWHUPWHUP
NO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. THAT'S FINE
POST A CHOPPER OUTSIDE EACH GATE, THOUGH, JUST IN CASE
KCHA-
klik
JAMMED! THAT'S WHY I HATE AUTOMATICS!
JUST FORGET IT AND MOVE! IF THEY GET US SURROUNDED, WE'RE FINISHED!


QUICK, OVER HERE! THERE'S A BACK WAY!
WHUST
BAM BA
SPAK
SPAK


YOU MISSED BOTH SHOTS! THAT'S A PAY CUT FOR YOU, MISTER!
WELL, THIS DAMN GUN'S TOO LIGHT, ANYWAY!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! COME ON!
I..
..I CAN'T GET THROUGH!!
HEY! WAIT!

BLAM
BLAM
WHKOOM
HEH, HEH!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
POP THE SUIT! NOW!
HNNG!
KSHANG
H... HELP ME...

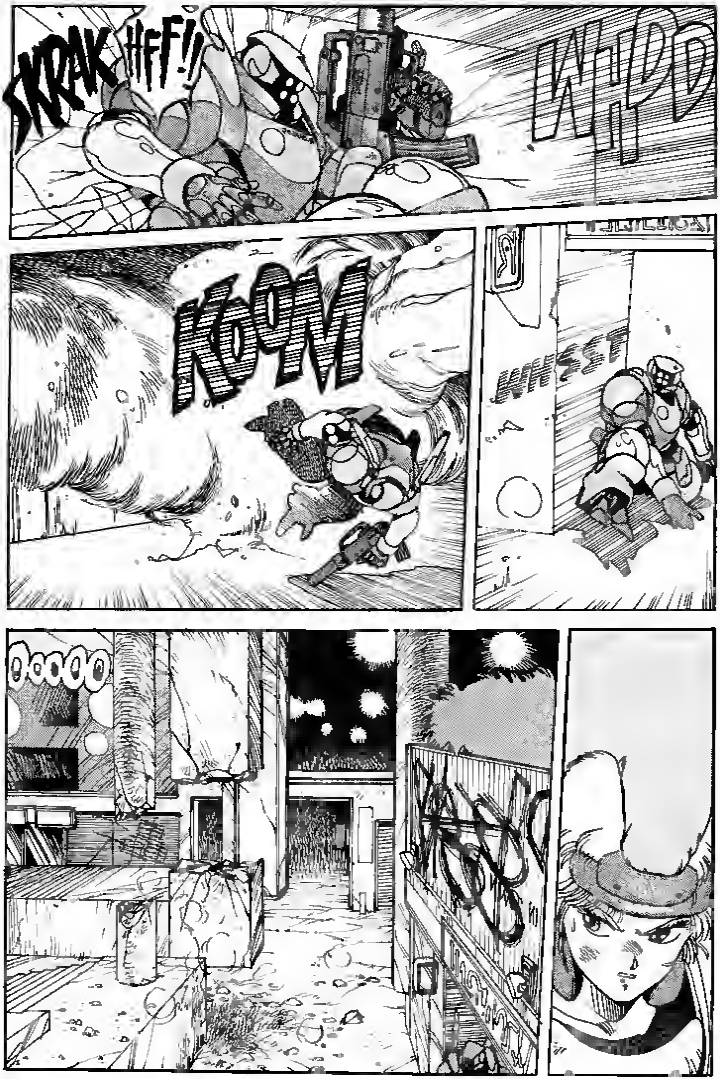
BLAM
HEH, HEH
POLICE
KSHHH
KSHANG
BOOM
BOOM

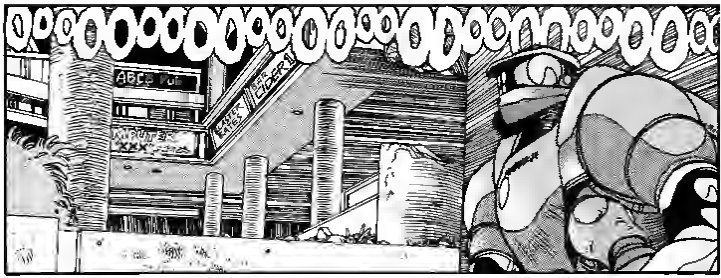
H GUGES
HEY!
HOLD IT!
GET DOWN, YOU IDIOT!
.....
THDD
FZZT
ZZT
WHKOOM
GYAAA!
DAMN IT...

zzzzt KCHAK
zzzzt KCHAK
AREN'T THERE ANY OTHER GATES?!
ALL WE CAN DO IS FIGHT OUR WAY THROUGH-- IT'S BETTER THAN GOING BACK!
Kk
IF YOU WANT TO LIVE, GIVE ME YOUR GUN!
YOU'RE CRAZY! I WON'T GET AWAY WITH JUST FILING A REPORT IF I DO THAT! WHO THE HELL ARE YOU, ANYWAY?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
!
H-GUGES
WRAM

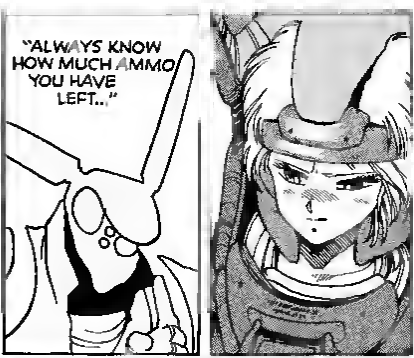
I SAID GIVE ME THE GUN! NOW!!!
W-WAIT! YOU... WHAT...?
HEY!
KAK
BRTTT
BAMBAMBAM
WHA?!
WHAT THE HELL IS WITH THIS GUN?! I WAS SCORING ON HIM!

KRANG G
WHA!!
WHOK
KANG

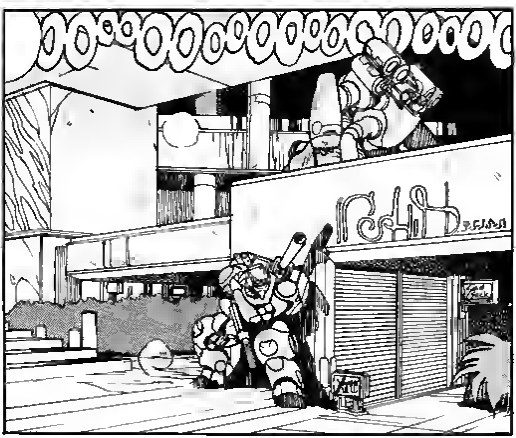

SKRAK HFF!!
WHOO
KOOM
WHSST

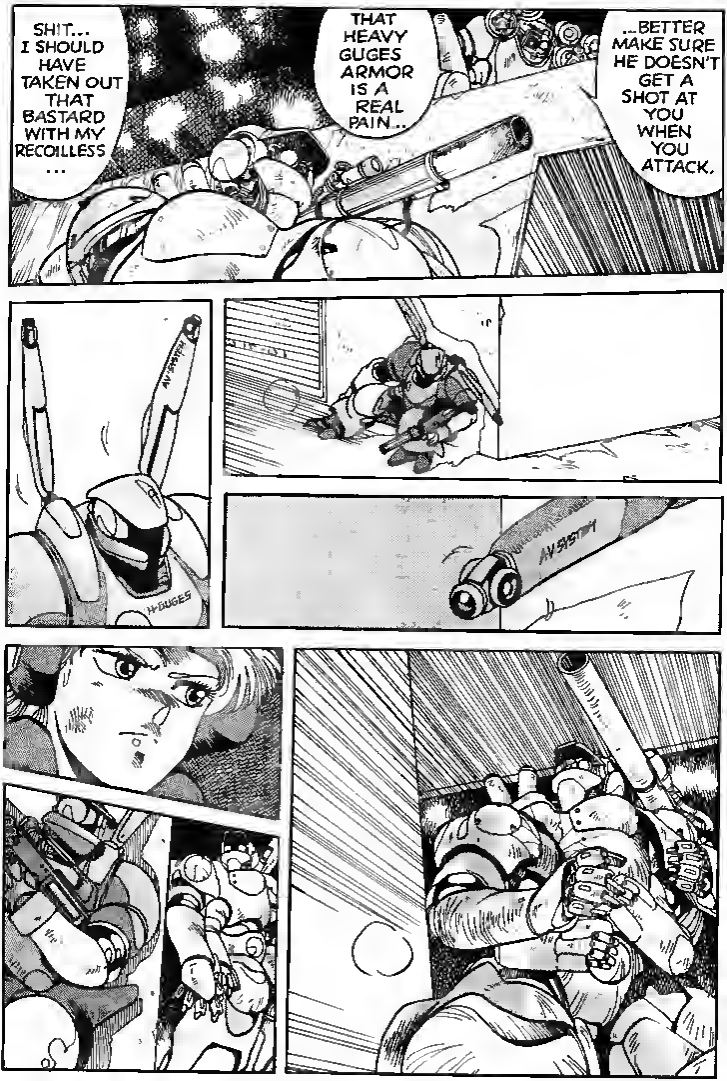

ABC's
XXX

Huh! THEIR ARMOR MAY BE THIN, BUT NOT THAT THIN. WHAT GOOD ARE NON-AP SHELLS LIKE THIS GOING TO BE?
TWO...
THREE...
...FOUR ROUNDS.


"ALWAYS KNOW HOW MUCH AMMO YOU HAVE LEFT..."

BRIAREOS...




SHIT.. I SHOULD HAVE TAKEN OUT THAT BASTARD WITH MY RECOILLESS ...
THAT HEAVY GUGES ARMOR IS A REAL PAIN..
...BETTER MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T GET A SHOT AT YOU WHEN YOU ATTACK.
AV SYSTEM
H-GUGES
AV SYSTEM

BAM BAM
SPAK
SPAK
4-GUGES
KNCH

AA...
AAA!
SPZZ
ZAK
GYAAA
WHDD

KRAK
ALL THAT MASS.. I CAN'T TRACK HIM!?
CAN'T... GET IT.. AROUND!
SKRAK

N-NO, WAIT!
WE... WE'RE--
KA-
BAM
Pudgy

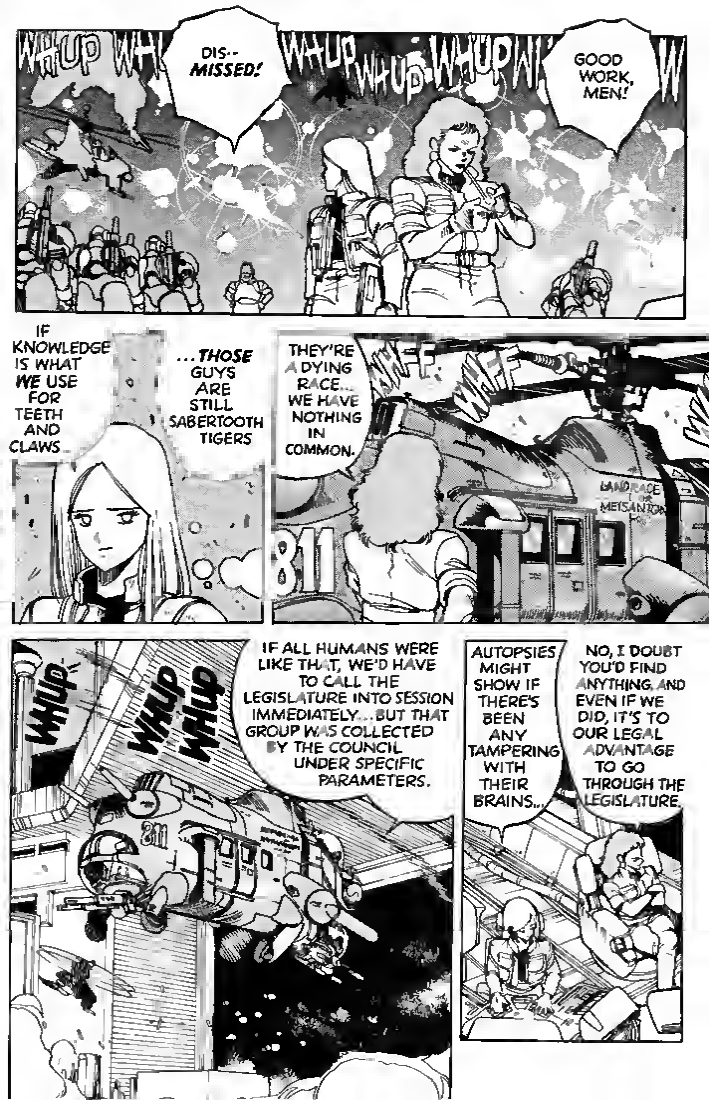
KYAHN
Whew...
IF YOU'RE GOING TO USE FORCE, DON'T TALK UNTIL YOU WIN.
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU PLAY WITH BATTLE ARMOR ...

KRANG
WHD
.....
OUT OF THE SUIT!
STOP!
DON'T SHOOT!

STAKE OUT THE AREA AND GUARD THE GIRL.
IF THEY PICK HER OFF, WE'LL NEVER GET THE WHOLE STORY.
YOU... WHO ARE..?
A.. PUBLIC OFFICIAL IN THIS COUNTRY, TERRORISTS HAVE ZERO RIGHTS, AND DON'T YOU FORGET IT!
IT'S... IT'S REALLY ALL OVER ...?
NO MORE TARGET READINGS, SIR. THERE'S NO ONE OUT THERE BUT COPS
FINE.
BLUE SQUAD, YOU CLEAN UP THIS MESS. GOLD SQUAD, TAKE THE GIRL IN. RED, YOU--
W--WAIT! I NEED TO GET TO THE HOSPITAL!
DIRECTOR... THERE'S A CALL COMING IN FROM THE COUNCIL.

WHAT!!
THE DIRECTOR GOT BOTH OF THEM?!
POLICE
WHUPWHUPWHU
WHAT THE #$%@&*! WERE YOU ON STATION FOR?! Huh?!
I... uh... THE TERRAIN'S REALLY BAD HERE, ALL THOSE DOWNDRAFTS ...
DON'T GIVE ME THAT CRAP!!
oh shit...
...EXCUSE ME, MA'AM, BUT...
...err... uhh...
FORGET IT.
WHUPWHUP
WHUP
WHUPWH
POLICE
A LAWYER! I DEMAND A LAWYER!

HEY YOU! WE'RE HUMANS, DAMMIT! I'LL--
POLICE
HEY, CREEP...
THUD
HNGG!
Urkk!
POLICE
WHOP
DID THE DRUGS DO THAT...?
THEY SHOULD HAVE WORN OFF BY NOW, AT LEAST ON THE AVERAGE PERSON
KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY ARE THERE TO BE USED. YOU'RE NOT THE ONES TO JUDGE-- REMEMBER THAT!
Hmm.


WHUP WH
DIS--
MISSED!
WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP W
GOOD WORK, MEN!
IF KNOWLEDGE IS WHAT WE USE FOR TEETH AND CLAWS...
...THOSE GUYS ARE STILL SABERTOOTH TIGERS
THEY'RE A DYING RACE... WE HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON.
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
IF ALL HUMANS WERE LIKE THAT, WE'D HAVE TO CALL THE LEGISLATURE INTO SESSION IMMEDIATELY... BUT THAT GROUP WAS COLLECTED BY THE COUNCIL UNDER SPECIFIC PARAMETERS.
AUTOPSIES MIGHT SHOW IF THERE'S BEEN ANY TAMPERING WITH THEIR BRAINS...
NO, I DOUBT YOU'D FIND ANYTHING. AND EVEN IF WE DID, IT'S TO OUR LEGAL ADVANTAGE TO GO THROUGH THE LEGISLATURE.

AT LEAST IT'S CLEAR THEY'RE GUERRILLAS. COULD IT BE SOME DEAL WITH ONE OF THE OLD SUPERPOWERS? LOOKING FOR MORE CONGENIAL MASTERS...?
NONE OF THE UNSUPERVISED COUNTRIES HAVE THOSE KINDS OF RESOURCES. THEY NEED OUR ASSISTANCE TO SURVIVE.
BESIDES, THEY COULDN'T HAVE SMUGGLED IN *THAT* MUCH FIREPOWER. NO, I'M SURE THE COUNCIL'S BEHIND IT ALL.
AT LEAST NOW WE'LL BE ALLOWED TO PUT THOSE GUINEA PIGS UNDER SURVEILLANCE.
THE REAL FIGHT COMES LATER.
THAT INCIDENT... WAS IT ATHENA'S WORK?
I IMAGINE SHE WAS CURIOUS ABOUT THEIR SUBCONSCIOUS TOO FOR HER OWN REASONS.
LOOKS LIKE THE DEBATE IS FINALLY OVER.

DID SHE USE A WAR DRUG?
COULD HAVE BEEN ANY SORT OF STIMULANT... PERHAPS AUTO-SUGGESTION.
WELL, IT HARDLY MATTERS.
THE INCIDENT HAS GIVEN *US* ANSWERS, AS WELL. IT'S ANOTHER WEAPON.
I MUST SAY, I FEEL AS IF I'VE SENT MY ONLY CHILD OFF ON A LONG JOURNEY. IMAGINE --TEARING DOWN THE BARRIERS BETWEEN US AND THE HUMANS...
WE'RE *THEIR* CHILDREN, MORE LIKE IT, AND WE'RE PLANNING TO MURDER THEM IN THEIR SLEEP.
FROM THE WAY THINGS WENT TODAY, WE'LL HAVE TO EXPECT A STRONG BACKLASH FROM *AEGIS*.
WE'LL REALLY NEED HITOMI'S PEOPLE THEN--AND IT WOULD SEEM THERE ARE RATHER FEWER OF THEM, NOW...
EXCUSE ME, SIR, BUT ALL THE CHIP MAKERS ARE CALLING IN QUOTATIONS ON THE REPLACEMENT PARTS FOR *GAIA*...
CONFOUND IT! NOT UNTIL THEY DELIVER *MY* PARTS FIRST!